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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Next Presidency—Now is the Time for the People to Move.

From the Herald.

From all parts of the country we hear of the spontaneous expression of the people in favor of General Grant for the next Presidency. With the exception of the radical press—and we do not discover that even that bitter political element is swinging unitedly in an opposite direction—the public journals are almost unanimously in favor of Grant for the highest office in the gift of the American people.

Therefore now is the time for the people, irrespective of all parties, to unite in preliminary action looking to a comprehensive and powerful organization, one that will completely revolutionize and overwhelm all mere partisan combinations in the next Presidential election. Now is the time for the people to meet, organize, and communicate with each other, without recognizing either of the old corrupt political parties or their rotten outcroppings of mean, shabby, and irresponsible little factions.

The parties that produce these political evils and crimes demand a thorough breaking up. It can be accomplished by the reconstruction of the law-making and the law-administering powers. Under the influence of this great movement the South can be more readily reconstructed, and the prosperity of that moaning section of the country be restored.

The Next Presidency.

From the Times.

Public sentiment tends strongly to the nomination of General Grant for next President. Unless something unusual happens to turn this rising tide of opinion, it will become irresistible before the party conventions meet. The feeling that he is the man for the crisis is not confined strictly to any party—though, of course, it is the strongest in the Union ranks.

The vigor and venom with which General Grant is assailed by General Butler, Wendell Phillips, and the men of their school, testify their fear of him as a candidate, and their conviction that they cannot use him, as President. Their attacks upon him will only make him stronger with the great body of those who look to union, peace, and harmonious co-operation of all States and all sections in promoting the national welfare as the great end and aim of political effort.

everything else, a statement for President. That is true; but it leaves open the question whether a statement is. The people of this country have come to some conclusions of their own as to the essential character of statesmanship. If we may judge by their past action, they are not inclined to accept the current definition of that word. They find their models of statesmanship outside the sacred circle of those who have been set apart, by choice or circumstances, to the work of holding office and managing public affairs.

General Grant is the only one of the men now talked of for the Presidency who is not so mixed up with party projects, so committed to special policies and schemes, so hampered by having "friends to reward and enemies to punish," as to destroy all public faith in his interested independence, and in his ability to make the public good the sole guide of his public action. There is no distinct line or scheme of policy to be compassed by the next election. The questions of public policy which followed the close of the war have been settled, and they are not likely to be disturbed. Slavery is blotted out forever. The negroes of the Southern States have been clothed with civil and political rights, and have become essential elements of Southern civil and political society.

It is said that he does not want the nomination. That very fact will increase tenfold the chance of his getting it. There is nothing of which the people of this country have shown themselves more jealous and distrustful than of open aspirations for the Presidency. The fact that any man wants to be President, and manifestly allows that to guide his public action, is with the people a powerful reason against his having it. If Calhoun, Clay, and Webster had shown less eagerness for the office, if they had not impressed upon the public mind the conviction that its attainment was the great aim and object of their lives, they would have surmounted the most formidable of the obstacles which they encountered. The belief that General Taylor did not desire the Presidency went very far with the people to satisfy them that he was a man who might be trusted in it. The Presidency is scarcely an office which can be considered a fair object of political ambition.

We look forward to the nomination of General Grant by the National Convention of the Union party. That the most strenuous efforts will be made to defeat it is sufficiently evident from movements already public. The entire machinery of the Republican party in the Southern States is in the hands of its opponents, and the representatives of that party in the Convention, elected, as of course they will be, wholly by negro votes, will probably be cast against him. But the great body of the Union party in the North and West will, unless we are greatly mistaken, become so satisfied that the existence of the party, as well as the welfare of the country, depend upon his becoming its candidate, that we have very little doubt of that result.

Reconstruction—Let Well Enough Alone.

From the Tribune.

We are informed that the President and his Cabinet are about to consider the condition of the Southern States, under the recent act of Congress, and to proclaim certain rules in reference to the conduct of the Major-Generals Commanding. It is furthermore rumored that the action of General Sheridan in removing Governor Wells led to an angry discussion at a recent Cabinet meeting, and that Mr. Stanton is preparing an opinion to justify the President in removing General Sheridan. It is also rumored that General Grant has expressed anxiety in regard to Sheridan, and while he will not recommend his removal, he still feels that he might be reprimanded. We are happy to welcome any expression of General Grant that seems to indicate an opinion on any national question, but we believe this rumor to be untrue. General Grant will hardly care to interfere with his renowned subordinate. At a critical point of the war, he found it necessary to give Sheridan but one order:—"Go in." If he has any order to give, let him repeat that.

struction act. That act was passed in defiance of the President. He came into office with the settlement of the war upon his hands. Instead of taking the advice of Congress by calling an extra session, or even the counsel of statesmen who might be presumed to speak the opinions of the party dominant in Congress, he created a policy of his own. It was offensive to the nation. It proposed to sacrifice the loyal men of the South to the spirit of rebellion. It would have surrendered to Davis more than Lee yielded to Grant. Still it was a "policy." Mr. Seward supported it in his reckless, gladstone way. Mr. McCulloch went out of his way to be its persistent minister. Mr. Stanton countenanced the orders which sent Terry and Saxton into the grace, and conferred honors upon Fairbank and Custar. A few persons like Dix, created by Almighty God apparently for no other purpose than to hold office, and gifted with a ravenous instinct of power, supported the President. Then came the wholesale removals from office. Intrepid Republicans were stricken down by hundreds for daring to believe in the teachings of Lincoln; men were ordered for betraying their party, and even in foreign Courts spies and informers were permitted to wander and collect gossip for our Secretary of State. All the powers of the Presidential office—its terrors and its blandishments—were used for the purpose of insuring the success of the "policy."

Well, what came of it? The President met with disastrous and humiliating defeat. His "policy" was overruled. The creatures he placed in office as a reward of treachery were driven out. Nay, more, the great office which he held, and whose patronage he wielded with more than imperial will of Jackson, was cut, and trimmed, and shorn of its greater part of its strength. It would no longer be a menace to a free people. His "States" were overturned. The Reconstruction law was passed, and its duties assigned to generals of the army. This was well understood. The President opposed it furiously. He threw his veto before Congress step by step. So recklessly was this done, that at one time it was almost certain that he would be impeached, or that his powers under this act would be assigned to General Grant. Mr. Stevens desired this, and a large party followed him. We believe this would have been done but for the assurance that any law Congress would pass the President would execute in letter and spirit. This assurance—our, rather, this well-founded belief—did everything to decide Congress. If it had not existed, the President would most probably have been removed.

This was the situation when Congress adjourned. Suspicious of his Excellency, not altogether trusting his sincerity, its members provided for a summer session. But the President has done so well, he has obeyed the law so faithfully, that impeachment has died, and we are not anxiously drifting into an era of good feeling. Reconstruction progresses. Impartial suffrage has been established in the South. The various problems that sorely tried our statesmen are being gradually solved by events. With suffrage to the slave we have had amnesty to the Rebel. Even the great chief of the Rebels has been released from prison and permitted to go to Canada, with but a trivial expression of dissent. Mr. Chase presides over a Southern court, and the process of habeas corpus has been resumed. The freedmen are gradually becoming freemen. Citizenship sits easily upon them. The country is at rest, and the clouds of the past of political reconstruction settled, addresses itself to the finances and tariffs. Our political sky is serene, with the exception of a little cloud that steals over it, scarcely larger than a man's hand.

We know the President must be sorely tempted to use whatever power he may possess to oppose a measure which he assailed so vindictively last winter. That is well understood. The country appreciates the fidelity with which he performs his most unwelcome work. But he must perform it. His administration will not be permitted to interfere with reconstruction by removing the generals who have the confidence of the country, and appointing men in whom it has no confidence. Let the President but attempt this—let him oppose his executive prerogative to the operations of the Military bill, and in a day this era of good feeling will become a season of rage and hate—and a large cloud will cover the heavens with blackness. The country is intensely earnest on this subject. Let Sheridan or Sickles, for instance, be removed, and a summer session of Congress will be inevitable. With a summer session the President's functions will most assuredly be so limited that it will not be in his power ever after to remove any General Commanding. All the bitterness that prevailed last year will be renewed, a hundred questions will suffer, and the work of national pacification be stopped merely that the President and Congress may have another controversy. Such a controversy can have but one result—for the people feel with Congress, and will sustain it. The danger is that the wise and temperate measure of last session, under which the country is doing so well, will be succeeded by a measure less wise and temperate. Everything is doing well. We entreat the President and his Cabinet, for their own sakes, as well as for the sake of the country, to let well enough alone.

The New Department of Education.

From the World.

The delightful tendency of all truly free government to enlarge itself and its area of operation, is shown in the Washington telegraph, which we published on Monday, concerning the new "Department of Education." This new department, forecasting its future glory, already exhibits a superior scorn of the State, Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, all which are basely "subordinate" and inferior. "Like the Commissioner of Agriculture," the immortal Newton, "the Commissioner on Education," we are told, will report directly to Congress, not being subordinate to any department of the Government.

The common-school system of the United States has hitherto been deemed one of the most creditable of our institutions. Fostered by grants of land belonging to the people of the country, it indeed has been; but the system has had its roots in State legislation and has thriven upon State taxes, has been managed by State officials, and has been the pride and peculiar care of the people of each State. But all this was in our pre-millennial epoch. Everything is to be changed. As the nation is governed supremely, so it is to be educated primarily, from Washington. We are not unjustly deemed by the wise men of the East who rule us to be an uneducated and barbarian people, needing light from the central source of wisdom, to wit—the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, outshining through the translucent medium of a "Commissioner of Education, not subordinate to any other department of the Government."

solar system regulates its vast revolutions and its infinite movements with perfect ease. It would, therefore, be profane to doubt that the Congress of a party of great moral ideas should be able, when seated upon their thrones in the Capitol, to direct with ease and felicity all the affairs of that portion of the domain-globe which owns their rule and domination. Indeed, the devout partisan may truly question whether these our earthly rulers have sufficient occupation for their vast and varied faculties in those matters already subjected to their control, and whether they do not stand in most distressing need of larger areas of sovereignty, more multitudinous and complicated concerns of men for that ample exhibition of themselves and their powers which should justify their works and ways to the sons of men.

That splendid advocate, the late Mr. Rufus Choate, in an oration on "Deliberative Eloquence as affected by Revolutionary Crises," after celebrating the praises of Demosthenes, and of Cicero, and of Adams as the orators of nations in the agony of death or birth, lamented that Webster should have fallen upon quiet times, a world's long peace, so that the depths of his great nature were never wholly stirred, nor all the thunders of his eloquence aroused, as they would have been by some like crisis at a nation's cradle or its grave. If by such superior things as these we may illustrate superior themes, permitted to us also be the doubt whether the calm Stevens, the dispassionate Boutwell, the sagacious Kelley, the serene Shellabarger, the pure Sprague, and the wise Wade and Van Winkle have had, or ever can have, their perfect and complete display, cribbed, cabined, and confined as they are within the limits upon their legislative action set by the present Constitution and the custom of the several States of the Union themselves to do what hitherto they have supposed themselves better able to do than any other for them. Those larger movements of the unfettered mind, to which these our earthly sovereigns are equal, what room for them is there in the management of a paltry two or three billions of debt, in the selection of fifteen or sixteen thousand subjects of taxation, in the reconstruction of ten discarded, once sovereign States, in lightening the burdens of our industry, in comforting the strifes of our commerce, in composing the strifes of a gigantic civil war, in opening to the black race of the South the paths of its progress to fitness for citizenship, or averting from the Indian races of the Far West the provoked or unprovoked calamities of an exterminating war. These matters, indeed, would exhaust the statesmanship and satisfy the ambition of any sovereign in the Old World, as they would have taxed the faculties and enlarged the fame of those who founded and those who reared this wonder of the New. But the nation which lost, when Webster died, a complete and perfect eloquence for the crisis of its greatest emergency, has happily let loose from her teeming womb statesmen superior to every exigency of its diplomacy, omniscient for all its palting legislative, capably indifferent to all the dangers of its wars, and supremely president of all the perils of its finance.

Therefore, let happy wisdom die with us for lack of ample room and verge enough, let us rejoice that these superior beings with whom heaven has so kindly blessed our latter days are not to become extinct for lack of development, nor impatient for want of room to exhibit in the world their powers. In assuming the education of the rising seventy millions of young Americans of the next two or three decades, all the wisdom of the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled may find employment for its unexhausted capacities and faculties evoked. Their Commissioner of Education is now engaged, we are told, in "transmitting circulars to the Governors of States, asking the requisite information in regard to their educational interests." Superfluous and unnecessary toil! Are not all things of the circumference known to the center? Does the sun receive light from the planets, or they from him? Let not the Commissioner vex these lesser orbs with demands for light. Let him rather wait till the winter solstice, and then behold how light and knowledge shall stream from the Capitol, instructing the Governors and General Assemblies of our national confederation not only with all needed "information in regard to the educational interests of their several States," but also with boundless intelligence upon matters hitherto undreamed of in their local and narrow philosophy.

Our youths, in their school-boy days alone, these governors and general assemblies have directed the education of. But Congress, beginning, as their unobedient Commissioner says, with the District of Columbia "as a point of commencement on the education of the country," shall direct the evolution of the infant mind from the cradle to the grave. For is it not education, and does it not begin at the cradle, and when does it end and short of the grave? Trees incline as twigs are bent, and what more supremely concerns our rising race than that their education should fall into proper hands at the very clipping of the umbilical cord? The Fortieth Congress sees its opportunity, and knows its duty. Hereafter let nurses and matrons be at peace, and schoolmasters and tutors rest their perturbed spirits. An act of Congress shall hereafter measure their swaddling clothes, and provide regulation pins for the diapers of all the children of the republic, apportion due doses of Liebig's lactine, containing protein and all other essential elements of food, prescribe the diameter of teething rings, the dimensions of the national cradle, and the height of the only American baby-jumper. Two-thirds of both Houses by a joint resolution, suited thus to escape some too paternal President's veto, shall ordain the due amount of spanking, to be administered by a national police, abolish congenital strabismus, and do away with hand-legged infants by penal enactments. Thus nurtured with a tender care, every child of freedom will safely and happily pass from infancy and childhood to blooming youth. Here too certain duties are to be amended the acts of all our forefathers shall select their phonetic *à la*, assign to Sumner the preparation of their universal primer, obtain of Yates and Chandler their object-lessons, and establish the Websterian spelling by a fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution. Elijah Pogram shall return from his home in the setting sun to inspire them with geography; Banks, from Portland to New Orleans, shall teach all our youths department, and regulation birch, measured by the Coast Survey, shall secure that equality of the republic, black or white, which will best prepare them for that equality of rights and privileges which is to be the enjoyment of their manhood.

But he who could predict all the glories of this dawning millennium would himself be fit to join in ushering in its day. Not to us, not to us, participation in the labors of these mighty minds!

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SPECIAL NOTICES. UNION LEAGUE HOUSE, MAY 12, 1867. REMOVED. OUR BEDDING STORE IN REMOVED FROM THE OLD STAND TO No. 11 South NINTH Street, 527 H. L. KNIGHT & SON, Philadelphia, Pa.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA, held March 12, 1867, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted:—Whereas, in a republican form of government it is of the highest importance that the government of the people, to whom the sovereign power is entrusted, should be so selected as to truly represent the body politic, and there being no provision of law whereby the people may be organized for the purpose of such selection, and all parties having recognized the necessity of an organization by the formation of voluntary associations for this purpose, and Whereas, there are grave defects existing under the present system of voluntary organization, which it is believed may be corrected by suitable provisions of law; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Board of Directors of the UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA, that the Secretary be and is hereby directed to offer eleven hundred dollars in prizes for essays on the legal organization of the people to select candidates for office, the prizes to be as follows, viz:—The sum of five hundred dollars for that essay which, in the judgment of the Board, shall be first in the order of merit. Three hundred dollars for the second. Two hundred for the third, and One hundred for the fourth. The conditions upon which these prizes offered are as follows, viz:—

First. All essays competing for these prizes must be addressed to GEORGE H. BOKER, Secretary of the Union League of Philadelphia, and must be received by him before the FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 1868; and no communication having the author's name attached, or with any other indication of origin, will be considered. Second. Accompanying every competing essay, the author must enclose his name and address within a sealed envelope, addressed to the Secretary of the Union League. After the awards have been made, the envelopes accompanying the successful essays shall be opened, and the authors notified of the result. Third. All competing essays shall become the property of the Union League; but no publication of rejected essays, or the names of their authors, shall be made without consent of the authors in writing. By order of the Board of Directors. GEORGE H. BOKER, SECRETARY.

LECTURES.—A NEW COURSE OF LECTURES is being delivered at the NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, embracing the subjects:—"How to Live and what to Live for."—Youth, Manhood, and Old Age.—Mental and Physical Education.—The Causes of Indigestion, Flatulence, and Nervous Diseases accounted for.—Marriage philosophically considered.—No. 601 CHESTNUT Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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